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1. The new head of the HVA motor vehicle department (Fachabteilung Kraftfahrzeuge), replacing Inspekteur Robert Hoffmann who has been transferred to the Minister President's Bureau for Economic Questions (Büro für Wirtschaftsfragen beim Ministerpräsidenten); is VP Kommandeur Arsel, who was previously a member of Abteilung Inspektion. In November 1950 he was appointed to the HVA recruiting board at Rostock, and in January 1951 he was brought back into HVA headquarters, and appointed deputy chief of Fachabteilung Kraftfahrzeuge. Arsel was an intelligent German Army NCO who, during the war, was promoted for efficiency and eventually reached the rank of major in an armored regiment. He joined the HVA in 1949 and is believed to be a member of the SED.
2. [REDACTED] the expected delivery of Russian field guns to the HVA had not taken place. In his opinion they were being held up pending a decision on the holding of a Foreign Ministers' Conference.
3. The motor vehicle battalion of the HVA is still at Adlershof, but premises are being prepared at Niederlehme, where the signal corps battalion is presently housed; the move will probably not take place until June or July 1951. The battalion consists now of two truck companies (each of 54 ZIS-4 1 ton trucks) and one company of cars. The latter consists of 92 cars, 70 of which are new BTMs and the remainder mostly DKWs. A delivery of 100 new BTMs was made to the HVA on 26 February. Of these, 20 had to go to Russian liaison officers (Sovietniks) in the various VPDs on the orders of the Russian Major General Makarov, and 70 of the remainder were retained by the battalion. It is planned to move only the two truck companies to Niederlehme. The car company will remain at Adlershof.
4. A large repair shop for the vehicles of the motor vehicle battalion is being set up at the Lager zBV of the HVA at Friedrichsfelde. The delay at the moment is in choosing and screening 30 civilians to act as mechanics. Source anticipates that this will be completed by the time the battalion moves into Niederlehme.
5. The HVA specialist school (Sonderschule) at Appollensdorf is a school for teaching drivers and future driving instructors. At present there are 30 men undergoing instruction. This number will be increased to 50, to be divided into two classes.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

The next course commences on 1 May and will continue for 10 months. Students will be trained to meet the qualifications for deputy for technical equipment (Stellvertreter des Bereitschaftsleiters für Technische Ausrüstung). A six months' course, also commencing 1 May 1950, with 100 students participating will train others to meet the qualifications for HVA driving instructor. The school is closely supervised by the SOG; the responsible officer being Lieutenant Colonel Alishkov. The commandant of the school is Oberrat Lindner. His PK officer is Oberrat Gaudix, and his chief of staff Oberrat Steffan.

6. The specialist school at Doberlug trains personnel to repair HVA heavy weapons. The premises are being fitted out with a view to converting the school in the near future into a large repair shop where all heavy equipment (field guns, tanks, etc.) of the HVA will be repaired when damaged beyond the capabilities of repair facilities of the various VFDs. The school is run by Kdr. Buschmann, who will almost certainly stay on when the conversion to repair shop takes place. The school is also to be responsible for training 24 mobile repair platoons for arms and equipment (Waffen und Geräte). The specifications for the 24 vehicles needed by these crews have been forwarded to the Minister President's Bureau for Economic Questions.
7. The specialist school Potsdam I is a Polit/Kultur school for HVA officers. As such it is on a considerably higher level than the school at Berlin-Treptow. Attached to this school is the "Kultur Ensemble" of the HVA, which specializes in political plays and folk dancing.
8. The VFDs reserved for special duties (zbV) at Dessau, Pinnow, and Trausnitz were originally activated as summer training camps (Sommerlager) where maneuvers and use of heavy equipment could be practiced. The premises at Pinnow are now being repaired and built up and it appears that preparations are being made to establish this place as a normal Bereitschaft of 1,800 men, but the other two VFDs will definitely remain as summer training camps.
9. The telephone and teleprinter communication net of the HVA is referred to as the "OB Netz". Communication net control stations (Nachrichten Leitstellen) were installed, one in each Land, with the responsibility of repairing any breakdown as quickly as possible. When the Länder Leitstellen of the HVA were dissolved at the end of 1950, the Nachrichten Leitstellen remained, each being taken over administratively by the nearest Volkspolizei Dienststelle.
10. The Fachabteilungen of the HVA are responsible for the drawing up of training programs in particular subjects, and for the supervision of the maintenance of the related equipment. Fachabteilung B is for artillery, Fachabteilung C for armored vehicles, and Fachabteilung D for engineers. Fachabteilung C, for example, draws up the training program for a particular stage of training in armored warfare and submits it to the Leiter für Ausbildung of the HVA. The Leiter examines the program and may refer it back to Fachabteilung C for criticisms and suggested alterations. When the program is finally agreed, it is handed to the chief of Fachabteilung C for his signature. The Leiter für Ausbildung then signs it and presents it to General Inspekteur Hoffmann for his signature. It is then sent to the VFD concerned where the commandant hands it to his deputy for technical equipment (Stellvertreter für Technische Ausrüstung), who in turn puts the training course into operation.

Comment: See [REDACTED]

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